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to and unworkable in Travancore. That opinion, the Member said, reflected badly on the people of Travancore. Travancore followed British India in all other matters, and the Member failed to see why the Village Panchayet system should not be tried here. As for the men, he said, there were several educated men in the State. If Village Munsiffs and Panchayets could be appointed, several of the Additional Munsiffs' Courts might be abolished. The change would be beneficial to the public and profitable to the Government. He therefore prayed that the matter might be reconsidered.

Mr. M. C. Mathevan Pillai, B. A. (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said that he fully supported the views of Mr. Sivathanu Pillai. With all deference to the High Court, he said that the system would, if tried, be found to work well in the State. There was also no lack of men, either in point of education or of general capacity. In the G. O. reviewing the work of the Civil Courts, recently published in the Gazette, it was stated that the High Court were in favour of appointing Honorary Magistrates. The Member said that he could not reconcile that position with the view of the High Court in regard to the Panchayet system. He therefore advocated the trial of the latter system, and added that, as suggested by Mr. Sivathanu Pillai, suits of the value of Rs. 20 and below might be entrusted to the Village Panchayets.

Dewan's reply.—The Government will again look into this question and see if anything can be done.

38. ***Exemption of Mahomedans from attendance in Courts on Fridays.***

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that Friday was a specially religious day for Mahomedans, and they had to go to the Mosques on that day, where religious services and lectures were held. He therefore requested that arrangements might be made not to post cases on Fridays in which Mahomedans had to appear as parties or as witnesses.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

(*1*). *Agriculture.*

39. ***Helpless condition of the agricultural classes in general and remedies for the same.***

Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that the boon conferred on the people of Travancore by the creation of the Agricultural Department was certainly incalculable, but he was sorry to observe that they were not permitted to enjoy all the benefits that could be had from the Department, as, under existing

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arrangements, the maintenance and repair of canals, tank-beds and other sources of water-supply, without which efficient agricultural operations could not be carried on, were not vested in the Director of Agriculture. All the labours of the Department, he added, would be futile, if the Director were not entrusted with sufficient funds to aid the needy ryots and to repair the tanks and regulate the water supply. The Member then described how, in foreign countries such as Baroda, Canada, Australia, Ireland, England and Denmark, the Government went to the help of the agricultural classes by purchasing lands for them and lending them money freely, and recovering the same by convenient instalments. The provisions of the Agricultural Loans Regulation of Travancore were rigorous and people could not derive as much benefit from that law as could be wished. He regretted to state that the help rendered by the Government to the ryots in Travancore was very little, when compared to the aid which agriculturists enjoyed all over the world.

Another important matter which he wished to bring to the notice of the Government was that people experienced considerable difficulty in bringing hill tracts under cultivation, owing to the interference of the Forest Department, which extended year by year the area of its Reserves, to the great inconvenience of the ryots. The increasing population of the State could find no place even if they had the will and the wherewithal to cultivate. In view to remedy the evils, he made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) That a yearly allotment should be sanctioned in the State Budget for the purpose of giving loans to the ryots on 3% interest, and also for improving and repairing irrigation tanks, canals, bunds and other water sources, and that the funds so allotted should be spent under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture ;

(2) That pasture lands with water convenience might be set apart in every village under the control of the Director;

(3) That pathways to the fields might be provided in every village for the use of men and cattle;

(4) That old tank-beds and canals intended for agricultural purposes, but which had been registered and occupied, should now be restored to their original condition;

(5) That loans might be freely given to the ryots and recovered by instalments, or collected in small sums along with the kist;

(6) That remission of tax should be granted for failure

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of crops, as also for unprofitable trees, as a matter of course and in all cases;

(7) That the existing Agricultural Loans Regulation should either be repealed or suitably modified, so as to enable the Director of Agriculture to grant loans after short enquiry and on proper security, within a time-limit to be fixed;

(8) That the Agricultural Director might be given the management of irrigation funds;

(9) That lands fit for cultivation and adjoining inhabited localities might be excluded from the Forest Reserves;

(10) That not less than 10 acres of waste land might be ordered to be registered in the name of each individual applicant;

(11) That the registry of irrigation tanks, tank-beds and pasture grounds might be forbidden.

Mr. Iravi Narayana Menon (Member, Kunnathnad Taluk) regretted that, though the Agricultural Department was a great boon to the ryots, the latter did not derive much benefit from its present activities. He made the following suggestions for enhancing the usefulness of the Department to the ryots :—

(i) That Model Farms should be established in different parts of the State and a Veterinary Hospital attached to each;

(ii) That new varieties of seeds suitable for cultivation in the country should be introduced and their cultivation demonstrated to the ryots;

(iii) That the Department should instruct the people in preparing and storing manure and also sell manure to the ryots when necessary;

(iv) That an Agricultural Survey of the State should be conducted with a view to ascertain what new crops might be introduced for cultivation in the lands that were now allowed to lie fallow;

(v) That improved agricultural implements and apparatus should be sold to the ryots by the Department, and also lent for use whenever possible;

(vi) That the existing facilities for the grant of loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation were not adequate and should therefore be increased and the Regulation thus made more workable and beneficial to the agricultural population;

(vii) That the Forest Department should not charge anything for the timber required for agricultural implements, for manure, etc.

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Mr. Kanakku Krishnan Atchuthan (Member, Alangad Taluk) observed that, in addition to what the other Members had stated, he had only to say that the Alangad taluk contained all varieties of soil and was best fitted for the opening of an Agricultural Farm. He therefore requested the opening of a Farm and an Agricultural Bank in the taluk and added that they would also serve the adjoining taluks of Parur and Muvattupuzha.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam Taluk) stated that the condition of agriculture throughout the Kottayam Division was very deplorable, as no attempts had hitherto been made to improve the method of agriculture in the light of modern science and of improved appliances. The only way to remedy this state of things and give an impetus to agriculture was by imparting scientific instruction to the masses as to the lines on which improvement should be effected. He therefore requested—

(1) that a Model Agricultural Farm might be opened at Kottayam for teaching the people in a practical way the improved methods of agriculture;

(2) that a manure depôt might be established; and

(3) that agricultural implements and different kinds of seeds might be supplied to the people at cheap rates.

He also suggested the opening of a school in which boys might learn lessons in agriculture.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar, B. A. (Member, Shencotta Taluk) thanked the Government for having sanctioned a scheme for restoring the tanks and channels in the Shencotta taluk, and, referring to his representation at the Fifth Session, he added that the mere restoration of tanks would be of little help to the ryots, unless a perennial source of water supply was provided by diverting the course of some river. Nothing was done in the matter since his representation, and though the Tank Restoration Party were doing something by way of restoring tanks, the storing capacity of the tanks was not being in any way increased. It was very necessary that the storage capacity of the tanks should be increased to the extent of making them hold water enough for raising at least one crop. That could be done either by increasing the area of the tanks or by deepening them. The former course would not benefit the lands irrigated by the channels and the latter measure would be of little permanent good as the tanks were liable to be silted up in the course of a few years. The two rivers in Shencotta were very small, and they were almost dry, except during the rainy

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season, and the ryots had to suffer frequently from failure of crops due to the insufficiency of the water-supply. The Member therefore suggested the following scheme for improving the water-supply of the taluk and he requested that an investigation might be ordered to be made to consider its feasibility:—

(1) Diversion of the Muriyapanchan river, the Teppakulam river, and the Achankovil river.

(2) Blocking up the Palaruvi river at a spot above the waterfall in the interior of the forests and the formation of a big artificial reservoir sufficient to irrigate the whole taluk.

(3) Construction of a few big tanks on the foot of the hills at Shencotta, Karkudy, Puliyara, and Makarai.

The Member added that the ryots of the adjoining British villages would also gladly contribute, along with the ryots of the Shencotta taluk, towards any water-supply scheme which the Government might undertake.

He then spoke about the damage done to the crops by wild beasts and said that the 'close season' should not be made applicable to the ryots who owned lands near the forests, reserved or unreserved.

Speaking on the present system of inspection, by Tahsildars, of crops reported to have been withered by drought, he said that the inconvenience caused by delay in inspection could be avoided by directing the Proverticars to submit weekly or fortnightly reports to the Tahsildars on the state of the crops in the various localities in their jurisdiction, the applications for remission of tax being disposed of on the evidence afforded by those reports. In cases of partial failure of crops, the Member requested that respectable ryots from the same or adjoining *pakuthies* might be appointed to decide as to whether or not remission should be granted.

Mr. K. Atchuthan Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that his representation had reference to a water-supply scheme for improving the cultivation of the lands in the Oolloor, Pallipuram, Kazhakuttam and Thonnakal Adhigarams. There was at present no system of irrigation in the locality. There were several *Chiras*, the chief among them being the Anathazhachira. The question of conserving the water in that *Chira* and converting it into a perennial source of water-supply by putting up a dam was considered by the ryots several years ago. The Member said that he had visited the locality and the *Chira* in company with Dewan Peishkar Mr. Subramonia Iyer and that

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they were of opinion that the scheme was quite practicable and was not very costly. He therefore requested that an investigation might be ordered by the Government through the Revenue Department. That Department might be requested also to submit a list of the *Chiras* in the locality. The Member added that the ryots of the locality were also prepared to meet the Government half way in the matter of cost, should the Government be pleased to carry out the scheme suggested by him.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Atchuthan Pillai is requested to put the details of his scheme in writing and send the same to the Government. The suggestions of the other Members are noted.

(2). *Industries.*

40. The present condition of Industries in the State and the need for developing the same.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that the present industrial condition of the State was very deplorable and required the earnest attention of the Government. The hills and forests of the country contained a mine of wealth, which only required an expert hand to tap them and turn them to useful account. Facilities were also not wanting. In point of education, the people of Travancore could be said to be even ahead of those of other countries. The forests were valuable, the soil was good, the seasons were favourable, and labour was cheap. With all these advantages, it was very discouraging that the bulk of the people were poor and were struggling for existence. Every one wanted to get into the Sirkar service, for which the competition was very keen. In the opinion of the Member, the remedy was to be had in industrial development. The people of the country were till recently left to themselves in the matter of agriculture. The Government took a step in the right direction when they organised a Department of Agriculture and the people were deriving much benefit from the Department ever since. But, the subject of 'industries' was even more important than that of 'agriculture,' because, in the case of agriculture, land was required, and the extent of the cultivable area in the State could not be increased; while industries admitted of development at all times, and if that were done, it would make the people richer and the country also richer and more prosperous through the people. At present, several articles were being exported from the country, as though they were not of use to the country, and they were being re-imported into it as manufactured articles several times more costly and valuable. For want of proper men with sufficient

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